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***** T O P S E C R E T *****

PRIORITY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 56//

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DECEMBER 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

THE WASHINGTON STAR

PRESIDENT FORD HAS RULED OUT ANY FORM OF COMBAT INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, INCLUDING THE SENDING OF ADVISERS, ACCORDING TO HIGH AUTHORITATIVE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, AND WILL NOT GO BEYOND THE CURRENT PROGRAM OF AIDING TWO FACTIONS FIGHTING A GROUP SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIET UNION. THE ARTICLE HEADLINES THE STAR.

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

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MARTHA ANGLE REPORTS THE SENATE, HAUNTED BY THE MEMORY OF VIETNAM, IS DEBATING THE ISSUE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AT AN EARLY STAGE -- BEFORE AMERICA FINDS ITSELF COMMITTED IN THAT STRIFE-TORN AFRICAN COUNTRY. (A-1)

VERNON GUIDRY REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AROUND FOR A WAY TO PUT THE SOPHISTICATED AND EXPENSIVE CIA SPY SHIP GLOMAR EXPLORER TO WORK, BUT AFTER ALL THE HOOPLA, THE VESSEL COULD WIND UP IN MOTHBALLS. A GSA SPOKESMAN ACKNOWLEDGED YESTERDAY THAT THE AGENCY HAS BEEN "ASKED INFORMALLY TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE SHIP AND FORMULATE SOME IDEAS ON POSSIBLE DISPOSAL," BUT HE SAID, "IT IS TOO EARLY IN THE GAME FOR US TO HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT PROPOSALS OR WHATEVER." (A-1)

THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, HAS QUIETLY PURCHASED LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION'S COMPLETE FACILITIES FOR MANUFACTURING SOLID-FUEL ROCKET MOTORS. MOST OF THE PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT OF THE NOW DEFUNCT LOCKHEED PROPULSION COMPANY NEAR REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA, IS BEING SHIPPED TO KOREA. (A-3)

THE LEAD EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE SENATE AND ITS RELEVANT COMMITTEES MUST STEEL THEMSELVES FOR THE UNWELCOME DUTY OF PUTTING SOUND PRINCIPLE FIRST AS THEY CONSIDER AMBASSADOR GEORGE BUSH'S NOMINATION TO BE CHIEF OF THE CIA. MR. BUSH IS A VERY NICE MAN, WITHOUT A TRACE OF THAT ARROGANCE OR ABRASIVENESS OF MANNER THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASY TO DENY CONFIRMATION. BUT REALLY, MR. BUSH SHOULD NOT BECOME DIRECTOR OF THE CIA. IF CONFIRMED FOR THE POST, MR. BUSH WOULD BE THE FIRST CIA DIRECTOR OF UNQUESTIONABLY POLITICAL PROVENANCE IN ITS HISTORY. ALL HIS PREDECESSORS HAVE BEEN, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS. THAT NEEDN'T BE THE RULE, BUT THERE OUGHT TO BE A NEGATIVE RULE HERE AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF PEOPLE WITH HIGH PARTY PROFILES. IT IS NO INSULT TO MR. BUSH, A FINE PUBLIC SERVANT, TO SAY THAT THE STAR HAS GREAT DIFFICULTY PICTURING HIM IN THAT ROLE IN THE INNER COUNCILS OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. (A-18)

A STAR EDITORIAL DISCUSSES AUSTRALIA'S BIG SWING. IN A MASSIVE SHIFT OF VOTER PREFERENCE, THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORATE HAS RECALLED THE FAMILIAR LIBERAL-NATIONAL COUNTRY COALITION TO POWER AFTER THREE YEARS OF CONTROVERSIAL DALLIANCE WITH LABOR PARTY GOVERNANCE. THE RESULT SHOULD PRODUCE A PERIOD OF STABILITY IN THE RECENTLY TURBULENT POLITICS OF AUSTRALIA AND A BETTER CHANCE FOR EARLY RECOVERY FROM SOME GNAWING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE U.S. HAS NEVER HAD TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH AUSTRALIA, BUT RELATIONS SHOULD BECOME FRIENDLIER AGAIN WITH FRASER IN POWER. THE FRASER GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT BACKTRACKING ON AUSTRALIAN NATIONALISM

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AND INCREASED INDEPENDENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CAN BE EXPECTED TO REEMPHASIZE AUSTRALIA'S TRADITIONAL CLOSENESS WITH THE U.S. AND BRITAIN. (A-18)

CARL ROWAN WRITES THAT SHUTTING UP MOYNIHAN WOULD HELP IN ANGOLA. THERE IS AN OLD AFRICAN PROVERB THAT "WHEN TWO ELEPHANTS FIGHT, THE GRASS GETS BRUISED." WELL, ANGOLA IS GOING TO WIND UP WITH A LOT OF BRUISES, BECAUSE THE PACHYDERMS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS HAVE MADE THIS FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY THE LATEST OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL BATTLEFIELDS. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON REPORT THAT THE U.S. ALREADY HAS SPENT MORE THAN \$50 MILLION IN COVERT OPERATIONS TO BLOCK THE SOVIET-BACKED POPULAR MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA. IF WE COULD KEEP MOYNIHAN QUIET THAT WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT OF SENDING IN AT LEAST ANOTHER \$50 MILLION. (A-19)

SOVIET CITIZENS CONSTANTLY ASK WHO WILL BE THE NEXT AMERICAN PRESIDENT, BUT THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO DISCUSS THE PROSPECT OF IMMINENT CHANGE AT THE HEAD OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. THE NEXT LEADER OR LEADERS, FOR THEY USUALLY START WITH TWO, WILL CLEARLY BE CUT FROM THE SAME OLD CLOTH. RUSSIANS SHARE THE AMERICAN VIEW OF BREZHNEV AS AN UNEXCITING FIGURE, BUT THEY ALSO SEE HIM AS A TYPE TO WHICH THEIR FUTURE IS COMMITTED. THE PATTERN WAS SET AFTER THE OUSTER OF THE FLAMBOYANT KHRUSHCHEV, AND IT IS NOW THE YARDSTICK BY WHICH VACANCIES ARE FILLED AT ALL LEVELS OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. THE NEW TYPE EXISTS WHEREVER DECISIVE POWER IS EXERTED. IT IS WELL REPRESENTED FOR EXAMPLE BY THE MAYOR OF LENINGRAD, AN IMPRESSIVE FELLOW WHO HAS PRESIDED FOR THREE YEARS OVER THE FORTUNES OF RUSSIA'S MOST ELEGANT CITY. THIS NEW TYPE OF SOVIET LEADER IS THE PARTY'S BEST HOPE OF DELIVERING ON ITS PROMISES TO THE PEOPLE. THEY ARE PRAGMATISTS EAGER TO PURSUE PEACE SO THEY CAN SUPPLY A BETTER LIFE AT HOME. (A-19)

RALPH JOSEPH REPORTS FROM TEHRAN THAT ALREADY HEDGING AGAINST THE DAY ITS OIL RESOURCES DRY UP, IRAN HAS BEGUN CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST OF POSSIBLY 20 TO 25 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IT BELIEVES IT WILL NEED. IRAN STILL HAS 30 YEARS OF OIL RESERVES, BUT THE SHAH FIGURES IF HE PUTS OFF CONSTRUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNTIL LATER, SOARING CONSTRUCTION COSTS COULD MAKE THE PRICE TAG PROHIBITIVE. (A-21)

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